

**City of Miami Beach - City Commission Retreat  
Eden Roc Hotel  
4525 Collins Avenue, Executive Boardroom  
Saturday, May 21, 2005**

Mayor David Dermer	Present
Vice-Mayor Garcia	Absent
Commissioner Saul Gross	Present
Commissioner Matti Herrera Bower	Present
Commissioner Simon Cruz	Present
Commissioner Jose Smith	Present
Commissioner Richard L. Steinberg	Present

City Manager Jorge M. Gonzalez	Present
City Clerk Robert E. Parcher	Present

Second day of the two day City Commission Retreat.

Dr. Rick Jensen, Ph. D. and founder of the Performance Enhancement Center facilitated the meeting.

The meeting started at approximately 10:30 a.m.

**Agenda Topics**

- Review Initiatives
- Review Uses of Funds from the Interlocal Agreement regarding the South Pointe RDA
- Communications of Survey Results
- Discuss tax rebate initiative
- Discuss growth management
- Influencing the City's demographics
- Getting new residents to vote and become involved – item was not discussed
- Select the departments who will give budget briefings to the City Commission

There was discussion regarding the Administration/City Commission communications. It was suggested that neighborhood meetings be included in the Weekly Meeting notice which is published in Thursdays The Miami Herald, Miami Beach Neighbors Section and transmit to the City Commission via an LTC. There was also some discussion relative to the Weekly Update LTC. It was noted that sometimes the Weekly Update LTC covers more than one week.

Dr. Jensen facilitated an activity in which the Mayor and Commission members took part in an exercise whose purpose was to highlight the importance of understanding the broader perspective and priorities of all team members while at the same time working together as a team to achieve the desired results and outcomes. The exercise further highlighted that sometimes in order for the entire team to be successful, it is necessary to participate even when it is not your priority. Commissioner Smith was selected randomly to observe while the Mayor and other Commission members completed the exercise. After the activity was completed, a discussion was held which focused on the actions which took place and the importance of working together to accomplish important results for the greater good.

The Fiscal Year 2005/06 Preliminary Recommended Priorities as of May 20, 2005 were discussed.

There was discussion regarding the new police officers funded by the South Pointe RDA. The new officers are assigned to the day shift and they should be split between the day and night shift. It was felt that there should be more police on duty at night. Jorge Gonzalez, City Manager, stated that the Administration, via a consultant, is analyzing and preparing a Police Staffing Report. Referring to the recent survey results, it was

stated that dollar allocations should be focused back to the survey results. There was also the discussion regarding police officers having more interaction and visibility with the public. Tinted windows in patrol cars, police officers getting out of their vehicles, GPS in the patrol cars for officer safety and accountability, and the development of a computer system which could assist in predicting where crimes might happen, were discussed. It was generally believed that there needs to be better interaction between the police and the community by increasing accountability and more frequent foot patrols.

It was also stated that there needs to be an Information Technology Master Plan similar to the CIP 5-year Master Plan. Establishing an internal Information Technology group was also mentioned. **Patricia Walker to handle.**

There was discussion regarding enhancing Government Channel 20. Jorge Gonzalez, City Manager, stated that in order to enhance communications with the public and internally, a new Communications department is being created.

There was discussion regarding continuing to fund the North Beach Development Corporation, NBDC. A discussion was held regarding the Quality-of-Life money, how it should be spent, and whether it should be passed-through an organization. Jorge Gonzalez, City Manager, stated that Quality-of-Life money should be spent on sanitation/cleaning, marketing, and capital improvements, and not duplicating administrative functions. It was determined that over the next few years that Quality-of-Life money should be used for extra and current capital improvement projects.

There was discussion regarding continuing to fund the three (3) chambers of commerce. No changes were made.

Jorge Gonzalez, City Manager, reviewed the FY 2005/06 projected funding availability from the amended CDT Interlocal Agreement, the potential uses of funds from the Interlocal Agreement, and the South Pointe RDA.

\$6.4M	Fund remaining South Pointe capital projects – project list and funding will to be reviewed by the City Commission
\$2.2M	Absorb expenses of other South Pointe RDA initiatives (Community policing, maintenance of RDA projects, and DEP submerged land lease
\$5.5M	Ensure other expenditures in the South Pointe geographic area are fully funded (Sanitation, Police, Fire, landscape maintenance, etc.

Potential new uses of funds made available for CDT/tourism-related expenses or general citywide expenses

\$1.6M	Provide funding for the Urban Impact Compensation Fund for homesteaded residents – phased in over two (2) years.
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\$ .5 - \$1.0	Address long-term liability deficits (Resolve funding shortfall in the reserve for claims against the City in the Risk Management Fund.
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Establish funding mechanism to position the City for the long term

\$1.0M	Creation of a Capital Reserve Fund – based on an annual contribution to address capital funding shortfalls, etc.
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\$5.0M	Pay-as-you-go capital fund (\$5 million per year)
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\$ .5 - \$1M	Funding for future Information Technology enhancements – based on an annual contribution
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\$3.0M	Still being worked on - to fund capital investment upkeep- based on an annual contribution to address routine re-occurring expenses to sustain capital improvement projects defined in a pre-approved plan to include landscape replacement
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TBD	Allocate resources to support priorities for improvements to existing services identified by the community through the community satisfaction surveys, for example: cleanliness, transportation, infrastructure repair, improved accessibility and availability of cultural events, work force housing,
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\$0 addressing homelessness, quality of building code enforcement/enforcement of codes and ordinances, work force development (training), and added to the list was lower park fees for kids. Fund education enrichment

There was discussion regarding the creation of a scholarship fund for those kids that can not pay the specialty program fees. In addition, the special parks programs presently split the fee with 80% going to the teacher and 20% to the City. The split needs to be reviewed. Money should also be allocated for enhance park service such as a softball league, etc. **Kevin Smith to handle.**

There was strong agreement to reduce the parks access fee. A fee should be charged for the special parks programs, but not to enter the park and shoot baskets, etc.

There was discussion about bike paths around the City. A map needs to be created which shows the paths presently completed, the paths under construction, and the path that are planned. Jorge Gonzalez, City Manager, proposed including staff in the budget to manager the bike program. **Fred Beckmann to handle.**

It was determined that Mayor Dermer and Jorge Gonzalez should give a 5 to 10 minute overview on Government Channel 20 explaining the results of the survey and also with the press.

There was a brief discussion regarding angle parking in the South Beach particularly around the Flamingo area. It was decided that angle parking is not a good idea.

There was a discussion regarding the Flamingo/Lummas Neighborhood (Drexel Avenue), and the Las Ramblas piece. It was agreed to stop the Las Ramblas.

There was a discussion regarding encroachments. The Administration needs to have a flexible policy in place. There were discussions about holding a workshop in the future. **Jorge Chartrand to handle.**

There was a discussion about the proliferation of tables and chairs on Lincoln Road. The issue of the landlords giving the restaurants the authorization to use the area in front of neighboring business has become an issue. **Fred Beckmann to handle.**

There was a discussion about the schools on Miami Beach, particularly Beach High and Nautilus Middle School. The question asked, are they as bad as they are perceived. Is it a perception or a reality? There was a discussion about trying to determine why some parents are sending their children to private schools versus the public schools. Commissioner Bower stated that she would work with the Quality of Education to try to get some statistics. It was also recommended that the Administration check with the Hay Group to see if they have any information on individuals who were contacted if they send their children to public or private schools.

At approximately 4:15 p.m., Commissioners Cruz and Smith had to leave.

There was a brief discussion regarding the process to appoint a City Attorney, if, and when Mr. Dubbin retires. As it was a discussion, no conclusion was reached.

It was determined that CIP, Parks and Recreations, Sanitation, Code Compliance, and the activities of the Homeless staff will do a budget presentation this year.

There was also a very brief discussion regarding appropriate retirement benefits for the Mayor and City Commissioners who have served on the City Commission for over six years. No conclusion was reached. **Jorge Gonzalez to handle.**

The Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:35 p.m.

Handout or Reference Material

1. Agenda
2. Fiscal Year 2005/06 Preliminary Recommended Priorities as of May 20, 2005
3. City of Miami Beach Mission Statement and Vision & Five-Year Plan
4. City of Miami Beach Environmental Scan 2000 – 2005, dated May 19, 2005
5. 2005 Community Satisfaction Surveys, Executive Summary of Results, dated May 2005
6. 2005 Resident Satisfaction Survey, Final Results – May 2005, report dated May 17, 2005
7. Document titled “Potential Uses of Funds from the Interlocal Agreement and the South Pointe RDA” and attached a document titled “ FY 2005/06 Projected Funding Availability from the Amended CDT Interlocal Agreement and the South Pointe RDA
8. Document titled Excellence Miami Beach – Commission Retreat May 20 & 21, 2005
9. Notebook title “2005 Community Satisfaction Survey Results”, Residents, Businesses, Community Organizations
10. Notice of the Meeting in The Miami Herald

**End of Report**